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Background Information for Facilitators

Prince William Partnerships for Health is one of forty-one local communities participating in a national three year strategic planning project sponsored by the Robert Wood Johnson and W.K. Kellogg Foundations. The goal of our Partnership is to engage the community in developing a strategic plan that addresses current and future challenges to the health of the citizens of Prince William, Manassas, and Manassas Park. Our strategy for developing this plan consists of two processes that are occurring simultaneously: an assessment of our current system and a community input process.

The unique Partnership of government, public health, medical providers, non-profit organizations, and businesses present on our advisory board allows us to examine our current methods of delivering health and health-related services in Prince William. This thorough examination of our current service delivery structure will lead to the identification of strengths, weaknesses, and gaps in this system. Information from this assessment will be combined with the information gathered from 30 focus groups similar to the one you are participating in tonight. Each of these groups will discuss a variety of health topics such as: infectious diseases, violence and injury prevention, government systems, and preventive and primary care services.

Prince William Partnerships for Health has contracted with the Center for the Advancement of Public Health at George Mason University to conduct each of the thirty focus groups to assure impartiality. All of the information that you share during this session will remain completely confidential. At no time will you be asked for your full name or any other identifying information. Please understand that the purpose of this group is to get citizen input into the current health system. Therefore, every person's opinion is important to us. The facilitator is present to direct the conversation and monitor the time but is not an actual participant in the conversation. Also, please note that the facilitator is not a part of this strategic planning process and thus, does not have any sensitivity to the questions or the responses. Because the facilitator is not actually a part of the strategic planning process, he/she will not be able to answer questions pertaining to the project.

General Public: Group 1

1.   What role, if any, should local government play in assuring a community's health?

2.   Nationally and in Prince William dental disease is found more often in the low income population. Often, access to dental care is limited by an individual's ability to pay. Medicaid provides dental coverage only to children and there are very few dental Medicaid providers in the area. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing care to those low income groups unable to access care?

3.   Most of us know someone with a chronic disease who would be doing better if they received services earlier in the course of their disease.
   a. If you know of such a person, what condition do they suffer from and what services would have helped them?
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?
   c. What gaps in services have worsened in the last five years?
   d. Which gaps in services have improved in the last five years?

4.   Many persons with chronic mental illness or other mental disorders may not be able to live independently. The law states that group homes may be located in any neighborhood.
   a.   Where should group homes or supervised apartments be located?
   b.   How would you feel if a group home moved into your neighborhood?
   c.   Who should decide where these homes are located?
   d.   How should these residential arrangements be funded?

5.   Wellness activities are a personal choice but can have consequences for others in the long term.
   a. Should the community be accountable for wellness activities or should they be the responsibility of individuals?
   b. Should the community pay for the consequences of poor wellness choices?

6.   Injuries can be unintentional such as a person falling, and intentional, such as an assault.
   a. Which kinds of injuries do you think are the most important?
   b. How should the community decide which kinds of injuries should be addressed?
   c. What strategies should we use to prevent injuries? (regulations, inspections, protective equipment, education)

7. The misuse of antibiotics creates resistance organisms. This can happen in animals and in people. However, when you have an illness you usually want the most modern treatment available regardless of the long term effects such a drug may have on the community at large.
   a. Should we (community, agencies/organizations) have policies to regulate the use of antibiotics?
   b. Who, if anyone, should develop these policies?
   c. Who, if anyone, should monitor compliance with these policies?

8. What is a hospital's role in community prevention?

9. Some diseases, such as tuberculosis, can pose a risk to the community if someone who is infectious refuses to take measures to protect those around him or her.
   a. What rights should the community have to limit the activities (quarantine or isolation) of such a person?
   b. Under what conditions and supervision should these community rights be enforced?
   c. Who, if anyone, should enforce them?

1.   Should the quality and effectiveness of medical care and human service programs be monitored by one agency or organization? How? Who?

2.   In order to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies, effective and desirable methods of birth control are needed. In the United States product safety information for contraceptives is gathered by continuous monitoring of a product even after it has been approved. This slows down the introduction of new contraceptives into the market and, in some cases, makes products approved in other countries unavailable in the US. What, if anything, should be done to help simplify the process so that contraceptives tested in other countries are available in the US?

3.   People with disabilities often suffer from other conditions such as bedsores, urinary tract infections, and respiratory infections. Because these illnesses are problems that are related to their disability they are called secondary conditions.
   a. Are we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) doing enough to prevent secondary conditions?
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that secondary conditions are detected and treated early in their course regardless of a person's ability to pay?
   c. How do we (providers, agencies/organizations) make sure that persons with disabilities have access to medical services?
   d. How much should we (providers, agencies/organizations) intervene in the quality of life issues that people with disabilities face?

4.   Current laws provide funding for specialized services for persons with mental disorders and other disabilities up to the age of 22 through our public school systems. With proper supervision and advocacy, many of these persons can be gainfully employed, thus helping to avert crises requiring expensive inpatient stays for stabilization.
   a.   Should supervised employment be provided for these persons?
   b.   If so, who should fund these special services?
   c.   Where should people with mental disorders who are employed through such a program live?
   d.   How should we (community, agencies/organizations) ensure that they have adequate transportation to and from their workplaces?

5.   a. Does our current system of describing the quality of nutrition help people?
   b. How should this system work?
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that the people of our community understand nutritional information and can plan healthy diets?

6. Many people believe that youth violence is increasing because of the lack of family and community support for youth. In our community, one survey found that 20% of elementary school students were either "latch key" kids or watched over by siblings before and after school. Another survey found that under-supervision of youth was considered to be one of the most significant problems in our community.
   a. How do you think that these problems have affected youth?
   b. How should we (community) address the problem of under-supervision of youth in our community?
   c. What role, if any, should the schools play in violence prevention?
   d. When is it appropriate for the community to intervene on behalf of a child?
   e. How should the community intervene in situations where the family has not been able to prevent violence?

7. a. When you think that food has made you (or your family) ill, how do you go about getting help?
   There are many parts of the process of getting food into stores, homes, and restaurants. They include food purchasing, processing, distribution, preparation, and finally, consumption. The safety of food in the US is managed under Federal, State, and local programs. Many agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, the US Department of Agriculture, the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the VA Department of Health, play a part in setting standards and inspecting for compliance with different phases food process.
   b. Does the current system provide enough protection for our community?
   c. How should the government be organized to best provide protection and advice to you?
   d. What do you feel would provide the greatest improvement in Food Safety? (increased inspections, tighter standards or penalties for those not complying)

8. As the health care industry changes, and welfare systems are restructured, new ways of providing services are emerging. Community not-for-profit charitable organizations are providing health promotion and prevention services that previously were delivered only by hospitals, health departments, and doctors' offices.
   a. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver these health promotion and prevention services (cost, current availability in the community, effectiveness of intervention)?
   b. How should these services be integrated with the services being provided by other agencies in the community?
   c. In some areas the health care industry has begun delivering services, such as contact tracing for infectious disease, that until recently were only provided by health departments. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver health protection services?
   d. How should these services be integrated with those services being provided by other agencies in the community?

9.   Above and beyond the income of individual practitioners, Medicine in the United States is big business, and health systems, insurance companies and hospitals charge for their services. Even non-profit institutions often charge for services and pay staff to provide those services. Profit is reinvested to expand services to the people served or is paid to investors as dividends. How high can a profit margin be and still be morally acceptable in medicine?

1.   What is your sense of the extent to which agencies work together on health issues? Who, if anyone, should monitor the collaboration and communication between agencies?

2.   The concept of health care as many levels of services from preventive to rehabilitation is probably foreign to most people. How should people be educated regarding the levels of services available to them and how best to use these services for good health?

3.   The Health Department is responsible for gathering information about infectious diseases in our community and notifying people of their risk when they have been exposed.
        a.   How should we (community, agencies/organizations) determine which diseases should be reported to the health department?
        b.   How should we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that they are reported accurately and quickly?
        c.   Should there be penalties for not reporting? What should those penalties be?
        d.   What should be done with the information that is collected?
        e.   What tools should be available for following up on cases of infectious disease?
        f.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for doing the follow up?

4.   Many elderly are known to suffer from depression. Suicide among the elderly is high, yet the elderly are difficult to reach with traditional services because of physical and social isolation.
        a.   What is the community's responsibility to reach out to this group?
        b.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that the elderly have access to needed services?
        c.   Who, if anyone, should pay for the specialized services needed to reach this population?

5.   a.   What should we (community, agencies/organizations) be doing to identify people with eating disorders or nutritional problems?
        b.   What services should we provide (agencies/organizations) to people with nutritional problems?
        c.   Who, if anyone, should provide these services?

6.   There are many circumstances where injuries can be prevented through regulations that may be viewed as an invasion of personal freedom, such as mandating seat belt or helmet use.
        a.   Is this an effective way of reducing the impact of injuries in our community?
        b.   When should an individual's rights be limited for the greater good of the community?

7.   Many agencies participate in food safety issues, each with a different area of responsibility.
   a.   Do you believe this leads to greater protection or creates lack of coverage in certain areas?
   b.   Do you believe there is enough inter agency communication and notification of Food Safety incidents or problems?
   c.   To what extent could these problems be addressed by centralizing all inspections and regulations?

8.   To what extent does the health department duplicate services already being provided in the community?
   a.   Is this duplication appropriate?
   b.   To what extent should the health department provide clinical services?
           (what kinds of clinical services?)(what should the health department do?)

9.   Many people believe that the changes in society such as two parent working families and single parent families have resulted in a large group of vulnerable youth. This problem may be even worse in our community because of the effects of commuting. In our community, one survey found that 20% of elementary school students were either "latch key" kids or watched over by siblings before and after school. Another survey found that under-supervision of youth was considered to be one of the most significant problems in our community.
   a.   How do you think that these problems have affected youth?
   b.   What can we (community, agencies/organizations) do to minimize the impact of commuting on families?
   c.   How should we (community, agencies/organizations) address the problem of under-supervision of youth in our community?
   d.   When is it appropriate for the community to intervene on behalf of a child?
   e.   How can we (community, agencies/organizations) create a sense of community to combat this societal change?

General Public: Group 4

1.   What about Prince William makes it a healthy place to live? What about Prince William makes it a less healthy place to live?

2.   As the health care industry changes, and welfare systems are restructured, new ways of providing services are emerging. Community not-for-profit charitable organizations are providing <u>health promotion and prevention services</u> that previously were delivered only by hospitals, health departments, and doctors' offices.
    a. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver these health promotion and prevention services (cost, current availability in the community, effectiveness of intervention)?
    b. How should these services be integrated with the services being provided by other agencies in the community?
    c. In some areas the health care industry has begun delivering services, such as contact tracing for infectious disease, that until recently were only provided by health departments. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver <u>health protection services</u>?
    d. How should these services be integrated with those services being provided by other agencies in the community?

3.   When an infectious disease that could pose a harm to you is present in the community, what do you want to know about it?
    a. How do you want to find out about it?
    b. If you are the person with the infectious disease, what do you want people to know?
    c. How do you want them to find out?

4.   Many adults with mental illness or other mental disorders have been cared for at home by their families. As their caretakers age and die, these people lose their lifelong support system.
    a. What is the community's role in caring for these people when their caretakers can no longer do it?
    b. Who, if anyone, should pay for this care?

5.   What education, advice, and supervision should be provided at exercise facilities in our community? (fitness centers, recreation facilities, and schools)
    a. Who, if anyone, should provide this service?

6. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for people under the age of 44.
    a. How important is this issue in our community?
    b. Is graduated licensing for new drivers an effective way to prevent motor vehicle crashes? Should it be instituted in our community?
    c. Is mandatory seat belt use an effective way to reduce motor vehicle crash injuries and deaths? How should seat belt use be enforced?
    d. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) ensure that children are riding in the appropriate restraints? How should we make sure that the restraints are used properly?
    e. Should the use of bike helmets be mandated? If so, who should be required to wear them?

7. Many agencies are responsible for Food Safety.
    a. Do you believe that Food Safety inspections should all be performed by a centralized agency for all elements of the Food Industry? (restaurants, food stores, suppliers and growers)
    b. Should the inspection agency or agencies be local, state, or federal?

8. To what extent do non-profit agencies duplicate services already being provided in the community?
    a. Is this duplication appropriate?
    b. To what extent should these agencies provide clinical services?
       (what kinds of clinical services?)(what should these agencies do?)
    c. To what extent should these agencies provide health promotion services?
       (what kinds?)(what kinds of health related activities should they be involved in?)

9. Wellness activities are a personal choice but can have consequences for others in the long term.
    a. Should the community be accountable for wellness activities or should they be the responsibility of individuals?
    b. Should the community pay for the consequences of poor wellness choices?

General Public: Group 5

1.   Do you feel that you have access to high quality medical services in Prince William?

2.   Data on certain health problems is needed in order for the public health system to run efficiently and to safeguard the health of the community.
   a.   What data would you be willing to share for public health needs?
   b.   What restrictions would you place on the use of data?
   c.   Who should have access to this data?
   d.   How much data should they have access to?
   e.   When a person is receiving services from a number of different agencies, how much information should be shared between those agencies?
   f.   Are there circumstances (such as those directly affecting the safety of the community) where data should be shared or released without your consent?
   g.   Who, if anyone, should enforce these rules?

3.   For many reasons, such as tracking infectious diseases and monitoring the quality of medical care, information about you is collected and shared between private corporations, providers, and government agencies.
   a.   How, if at all, should this sharing be regulated to protect your privacy?
   b.   Who, if anyone, should enforce these rules?
   c.   Under what conditions (such as those directly affecting the safety of the community) should this information be shared and/or released without your consent?

4.   In our community, <u>insurance coverage</u> for inpatient substance abuse treatment is very rare. At most, a person has coverage for inpatient detoxification and limited outpatient counseling.
   a.   To what extent should substance abuse services be covered by health care plans?
   b.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?
   c.   Should these services be available repeatedly for those with recurring abuse problems?
   d.   Should people <u>without insurance</u> have access to the same substance abuse services?
   e.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?
   f.   What roles should various groups play in addressing substance abuse issues?

5.   Schools have regulations requiring them to provide nutritious meals to children.
   a.   Do children take advantage of these meals?
   b.   How do we (community, schools) encourage participation in this service?

6. Many communities rely on Neighborhood Watch and other such programs to reduce crime and violence.
   a. How effective are these programs at preventing crime and violence? (If not effective, what are some effective ways to prevent crime and violence?)
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for crime and violence prevention?
   c. What can we (community, agencies/organizations) do to develop a sense of community in Prince William?

7. a. Do you believe that enough information about food safety issues is made available to the public?
   b. Is this information given to the public soon enough?
   c. How could this information be made more readily available?
   d. How should the public be notified of possible incidents of food poisoning?

8. Many illnesses and injuries can be prevented completely or at least made less severe with regular visits to health care providers. However, these preventive and primary care services need to be readily available.
   a. What preventive services do you think should be available as part of primary care?
   b. Should these services be available through public funds for everyone or should the public only pay for services that will save money in the long run?
   c. Who, if anyone, should make these services available for everyone?

General Public: Group 6

1.   What does it take to make a healthy community?

2.   Virginia has decided that the Department of Health should monitor the quality of services being provided by managed care programs.
    a.   What should this include?
    b.   How should it be accomplished?

3.   Some diseases, such as tuberculosis, can pose a risk to the community if an infected person refuses to take measures to protect those around him or her.
    a.   What rights should the community have to limit the activities (quarantine or isolation) of such a person?
    b.   Under what conditions and supervision should these community rights be enforced?
    c.   Who, if anyone, should enforce them?

4.   Research shows that most substance abusers begin using alcohol or drugs early in life.
    a.   Whose responsibility is it to teach and counsel children?
    b.   What is the best way to prevent substance abuse by our children?
    c.   Should all children receive substance abuse prevention or should these services be targeted to high risk children?
    d.   How do we (community, agencies/organizations) best get messages to children?
    e.   What messages do you think they are hearing?
    f.   What many resources should we be devoting to prevention? Intervention? Treatment?

5.   Preventable illnesses can have a great impact on workplaces due to employee absences for personal illness or a child's illness.
    a. What can we (communities, agencies/organizations) do in our community to decrease the impact this has on the workplace?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for addressing this issue?

6.   Every year guns are responsible for a number of unintentional and intentional injuries and deaths.
    a. Is gun safety an important issue for our community?
    b. Is safety regarding other weapons important in our community?
    c. How should we address this issue?
    d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for addressing it?
    e. Should there be punishments for parents and guardians if their children injure someone with a gun?

7.   a. Do you feel that food inspections or regulations should include private organizations? (civic clubs or religious institutions)
        b.   To what extent should they be included in inspections? (limited to functions open to the Public at large such as fund raising dinners or for all functions)

8.   In our community, a greater number of the uninsured poor population has the ability to receive health insurance for their children.
        a.   Should uninsured families, unable to pay for medical services, be required to apply for public insurance programs before being accepted for "free" care in the health department, free clinic, or emergency rooms?
        b. How can these agencies make sure that those children who qualify for this program are enrolled?
        c. How can the information be disseminated such that those who qualify become enrolled, but also understand how to utilize this program for their children?

General Public: Group 7

1. What has happened in this community in the last five years that has had the biggest positive impact on your health? What has happened in this community in the last five years that has had the biggest negative impact on your health?

2. There are many government system structures within our community. Prince William has functions that are performed by local agencies, state agencies with local agents, state agencies without local representation, regional agencies, and federal agencies. What system structure do you think provides the most reasonable tradeoff between service and accountability?

3. Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is supposed to prevent people with infectious diseases from immigrating into our country. However, this regulation is often not enforced which results in infectious diseases being brought into our schools and communities, ultimately costing our system money.
    a. Should INS be able to overpower a state's ability to control infectious diseases?
    b. How should these regulations be enforced?

4. In our community insurance coverage for inpatient and residential treatment for substance abuse has declined so dramatically that correctional facilities are considered by many to be the best source of this type of treatment.
    a. What does this say about a community's view of substance abuse and substance abusers?
    b. What should we (community, agencies/organizations) be doing in our community to treat people with substance abuse problems?

5. a. What would you, as an employee, do if you thought there was something unsafe in your workplace?
    b. Do you feel that information about safety issues is easy to get in your place of employment?
    c. Do you feel that there would be negative consequences if you reported a problem?

6. Many neighbors are confused about how domestic violence will affect them and their neighbors if they call the police with information about suspected domestic violence.
   a. Currently, what is the best way for citizens get help for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence?
   b. How effective is the current system for getting help for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence?
   c. What are the choices for a neighbor when a child shares with them about violence in his/her home?
   d. Is the fear of reporting a neighbor a concern in our community?
   e. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) address this concern?
   f. How much responsibility does a community have to provide assistance to those victims who leave an abusive relationship?
   g. What services should be provided?
   h. Who, if anyone, should provide these services?

7. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for food inspections and regulations especially when food crosses state lines. This includes regulations for how food is grown and how cattle, fish and poultry are raised.
   a. Do you feel that this is sufficient?
   b. Should State or Local agencies have greater control over food items entering or leaving this community?

8. Prevention (e.g., cancer screenings, cholesterol checks, and immunizations) is the most cost-effective way to maintain good health.
   a. Should rewards or penalties be built into private or public insurance plans to promote the use of these services to prevent unhealthy behaviors?
   b. What keeps people from using these services?

General Public: Group 8

1.   What health-related services are provided in the community effectively and efficiently?
       Which services are not provided effectively and efficiently?

2.   a. When you think that food has made you (or your family) ill, how do you go about
       getting help?
       There are many parts of the process of getting food into stores, homes, and restaurants.
       They include food purchasing, processing, distribution, preparation, and finally,
       consumption. The safety of food in the US is managed under Federal, State, and local
       programs. Many agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, the US
       Department of Agriculture, the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services
       and the VA Department of Health, play a part in setting standards and inspecting for
       compliance with different phases food process.
       b.   What level of protection does the current system provide for our community?
       c.   How should the government be organized to best provide protection and advice to
            you?

3.   An immunization registry is a computer-based warehouse for immunization histories
       similar to the old paper shot record. The immunization information can be viewed by
       participating health care providers. This means that each time a person went to a provider,
       that provider would have access to an up-to-date shot record for that person.
       a.   If Virginia had a statewide immunization registry would you participate in the registry?
            Why or why not?
       b.   Who should be responsible for maintaining the registry?
       c.   Who should have access to the registry information?
            d.   How should a patient's privacy be assured?

4.   Every year many infants are born affected by alcohol or drugs because their mothers
       abused these substances while they were pregnant.
       a.   How should we (community, agency/organizations) address this issue in our
             community?
       b.   Under what circumstances should a community intervene on behalf of the unborn
             child?
       c.   How should a community intervene in these situations?

5.   The Occupational Safety and Health Administration develops policies to protect workers
       against many work place hazards.
       a. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for educating employers about OSHA policies?
       b. How should we (agencies/organizations) monitor compliance with OSHA policies?
       c. Should there be a punishment for violations of the policy?

6.   Community concern for the elderly includes the need for this population to be protected from abuse by a partner or a fatigued caregiver.
      a. Which type of elder abuse (partner or caregiver) is of most concern in our community?
      b. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) prevent each type of abuse?
      c. What can we (community) do to make sure that the community seeks immediate and appropriate help for individuals who are being abused by a partner or a fatigued caregiver
      d. What is the community's responsibility in providing assistance to the elderly?

7.   Healthy People 2010 has adopted two broad goals for the nation's health: increase the quality and years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities. These goals recognize that individual members of a community may be at risk because of their own particular situations (poverty) and that members groups within the community may be at risk because of their membership in that group (race, gender).
      a. Under what circumstances should people be eligible for special programs?
      b. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) determine who should be eligible?
      c. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) identify classifications for people in order to determine population needs?

8.   In order for health care policies (preventive services, primary care, emergency services, and long-term care) to be developed, data must be gathered to describe the needs of our community.
      a. Who should be responsible for collecting the data and making it available for policy makers?
      b. Agencies in both the public and private sectors must cooperate with one another to develop the appropriate response to a problem once it is identified.
      c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that agencies cooperate with one another?
      d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring progress after a need has been found?

General Public: Group 9

1.   If you were put in charge of the health of the citizens of Prince William what one problem would be your top priority?

2.   As the health care system changes, employees of the system need to maintain old skills or learn new ones.
    a. How should we (the community) ensure that our workforce is competent?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring its competence?
    c. Who should pay for additional training of health care workers when needed?

3.   Immunizations are one of the most effective ways to prevent infectious diseases.
    a. In your opinion, what are the major reasons that people do not get immunized?
    b. In your opinion, what are the major reasons that prevent health care providers from giving immunizations?
    c. How would you fix these problems?
    d. Which problems should be addressed first?
    e. Who should be responsible for addressing these problems?

4.   Women with children often have an additional challenge in getting help with substance abuse problems—care for the children.
    a.   What substance abuse services should be available to women with children?
    b.   What is our responsibility to the children while the mother is being treated?

5.   Indoor air quality in the workplace is an issue that has been identified as a concern of today's workforce. The Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration deal with issues that range from infectious diseases to dangerous substances, such as asbestos.
    a. Do you think indoor air quality is a concern within our community? How important is this concern compared to other employee health issues?
    b. How should we (agencies/organizations) deal with this problem in our community?
    c. *(If answer deals with regulation then ask):* Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcement of these policies?

6.   The environment of Prince William is regulated by Federal, State, and Local authorities. Several new regulations such as auto emissions testing and pollution discharge permitting have taken effect recently.
   a. What areas of the environment do you see improving?
   b. What areas of the environment do you see getting worse?
   c. What can be done to improve our environment?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for doing it?

7.   a. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) identify special population groups within our community?
   b. How can we (community, agencies/organizations) determine which groups need the most immediate attention?
   c. To what extent should the community support special needs?
   d. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) support those with special needs?
   e. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these supports?

8.   The concept of health care as a many levels of services from preventive to rehabilitation is probably foreign to most people. How should people be educated regarding the levels of services available to them and how best to use these services for good health?

General Public: Group 10

1.   Many illnesses and injuries can be prevented completely or at least made less severe with regular visits to health care providers. However, these preventive and primary care services need to be readily available.
   a. What preventive services do you think should be available as part of primary care?
   b. Should these services be available through public funds for everyone or should the public only pay for services that will save money in the long run?
   c. Who, if anyone, should make these services available for everyone?

2.   The misuse of antibiotics creates resistant organisms. This can happen in animals and in people. However, when you have an illness you usually want the most modern treatment available regardless of the potential for long-term effects on the community (i.e., antibiotic resistance)
   a. Should we (the community) have policies to regulate the use of antibiotics?
   b. Who should develop these policies?
   c. Who, if anyone, should monitor compliance with these policies?

3.   Many people expect their doctor to use the most modern antibiotics available to treat their illness. Should we (community, agencies/organizations) require doctors to use older antibiotics to slow down the development of antibiotic resistant organisms?

4.   Evidence shows that many motor vehicle crashes that involve alcohol are caused by repeat offenders.
   a.   What should we (community, agencies/organizations) be doing to address this issue?
   b.   How do we (community, agencies/organizations) prevent driving under the influence?
   c.   How do we (community, agencies/organizations) prevent repeat offenses?

5.   Contaminated blood in the workplace is an issue that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has addressed since 1992 through the development of a standard policy. Before 1992, healthcare institutions dealt with this problem individually through their infection control programs. In spite of these efforts, healthcare workers contracted such things as Hepatitis B while doing their jobs. The OSHA policy expands the former guidelines to include many workers that are not employees of healthcare institutions. Therefore, there are numerous individuals in our community who could be included in the OSHA Standard.
   a. Is contaminated blood in the workplace an issue of concern in our community?
   b. Is it an issue that is important for employees outside of the health care field?
   c. How can we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that employees are protected?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that workers are protected?

6.	There are a number of agencies involved in protecting and regulating the environment. A few examples include the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health, Fire and Rescue, and Public Works.
    a.	Do you believe there are enough safety measures in place to protect the Environment?
    b.	Is there enough enforcement of environmental regulations?
    c.	Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcing environmental policies?
    d.	How should we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that all of the agencies working on environmental issues are working together?
    e.	Do you feel that these safety measures in place to protect the environment have a noticeable impact on your health?

7.	As the community changes, the special needs of individuals and groups will also change.
    a.	How should we (community, agencies/organizations) monitor these changes and needs?
    b.	How will we (community, agencies/organizations) know when we have succeeded in reaching and assisting those with special needs (i.e., when we have eliminated disparities)?

8.	There are many health issues that involve a choice between an individuals right and a community responsibility. One example of such an issue is immunizations. Policies regarding immunizations have to find a balance between an individual's wishes and community protection. Where do you draw the line between individual choice and community responsibility? How much should an individual's right to choose be honored in policies?

General Public: Group 11

1.	In order for health care policies (preventive services, primary care, emergency services, and long-term care) to be developed, data must be gathered to describe the needs of our community.
	a. Who should be responsible for collecting the data and making it available for policy makers?
	Agencies in both the public and private sectors must cooperate with one another to develop the appropriate response to a problem once it is identified.
	b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that agencies cooperate with one another?
	c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring progress after a need has been found?

2.	(The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for air and water pollution control in the Commonwealth. The VA Department of Health is responsible for most health-related issues.)
	a. If you had a question about the effects air or water pollution can have on your health, which agency would you call?
	b. What characteristics of each agency make you prefer to call that agency for assistance?

3.	Over the past several decades, treatment of persons with mental illness and other mental disorders has shifted from institutions to the community. Persons with mental disorders are now typically hospitalized only for very short stays for crisis stabilization.
	a.	Where should persons with mental disorders be treated?
	b.	Who, if anyone, should pay for the treatment?
	c.	How should regular medical and dental care be provided for people who received their care in an institution in the past?

4.	Substance abuse among the elderly population is especially challenging because of denial of the abuse and the isolation that many elderly face.
	a.	What services should be available for the elderly?
	b.	How do we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that they have access to these services?
	c.	How do we prevent (community) the social isolation that often leads to substance abuse in this population?

5.   Employee childcare is an issue that receives a great deal of media attention in our country. With the increase in single parent households and the increased need for two-incomes, employee childcare is increasing.
        a. Is this an issue of concern in our community?
        b. There are several ways in which childcare can be provided for employees: financial support for sending children to certified childcare centers, on-site child care facilities, support for before and after school programs, and support for specialized care for sick children. Which of these methods do you think is most effective?
        c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing childcare?
        d. How should childcare programs be funded?

6.   There are many things that people do that can have a negative impact on the Environment such as improper fertilizing of lawns, lack of vehicle maintenance, burning of leaves, and littering. Some communities have laws limiting the use of types of gas powered equipment to reduce air pollution.
        a. Do you believe that such regulation is necessary to improve the Environment?
        b. What forms of regulation do you favor?
        c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcing these regulations?
        d. How should they be enforced?

7.   To what extent do special population groups have access to quality medical care?
        a. To what extent do special populations have access to support services?
        b. How much should the community provide for those with special needs?

8.   Data on certain health problems is needed in order for the public health system to run efficiently and to safeguard the health of the community.
        a. What data would you be willing to share for public health needs?
        b. What restrictions would you place on the use of data?
        c. How much data should they have access to?
        d. When a person is receiving services from a number of different agencies, should information be shared between those agencies?
        e. Are there circumstances such as those directly affecting the safety of the community, where data should be shared or released without your consent?
        f. Who, if anyone, should enforce these rules?

General Public: Group 12

1.   In our community, a greater number of the uninsured poor population has the ability to receive health insurance for their children.
   a. Should uninsured families, unable to pay for medical services, be required to apply for public insurance programs before being accepted for "free" care in the health department, free clinic, or emergency rooms?
   b. How can these agencies make sure that those children who qualify for this program are enrolled?
   c. How can the information be disseminated such that those who qualify become enrolled, but also understand how to utilize this program for their children?

2.   Because different communities have different populations, chronic disease needs are different.
   a. What are the most significant needs for our community?
   b. Should we (providers, agencies/organizations) be focusing more attention on prevention, screening and early detection, or treatment and control?
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making these services available?

3.   Managed care has significantly changed access to mental health treatment services, even for persons with health insurance. Most insurance policies will pay for only very short stays (one or two days) in an inpatient setting.
   a. What types of mental health services should be covered by insurers (including Medicaid)?
   b. Should coverage be the same for all age groups (children, adults, elderly)?
   c. What is a community's responsibility to provide mental health services to the uninsured?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing mental health services to the uninsured?

4.   Halfway houses were once a popular way to provide residential treatment for substance abuse. They are no longer widely accepted or used in our community.
   a. Are halfway houses an acceptable way of providing substance abuse treatment?
   b. Should halfway houses be established in our community?
   c. What other residential treatment options should be available?
   d. How would you feel if there was a proposal to build a halfway house in your neighborhood?

5. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of deaths in the workplace nationally. Whether it is a delivery truck driver or an employee on the roads in the course of his duties, our workers are exposed to this hazard. There are training programs in place to educate employees in the safe operation and maintenance of their vehicle.
   a. How important is this issue in our community compared to other employee health issues?
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing training courses for employees?
   c. Should drivers training courses be mandatory for employees who regularly operate a vehicle for work purposes?
   d. How often should employees have to take such a course?
   e. Who, if anyone, should monitor compliance with driver education policies?

6. Prince William is a developing community. The rate and type of development occurring in our community can result in changes in the environment. As a result, many local regulations, such as buffer areas, preserving streams and natural areas, replanting trees, and constructing storm water facilities, have been enacted to counter these changes and create a balance.
   a. Do you feel these regulations have improved or helped maintain the Environment?
   b. Do you think that these regulations protect the health of our community?
   c. Do these regulations create new problems? If so, what kinds of problems?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for studying the long term effects of these measures?

7. Many people believe that the changes in society (two parent working families and single parent families) have resulted in a large group of vulnerable youth. This problem may be even worse in our community because of the effects of commuting.
   a. What can we (community, agencies/organizations) do to minimize the impact of commuting on families?
   b. How can we (community, agencies/organizations) create a sense of community to combat this societal change?
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for the actions of our young people?
   d. How should we (community) deal with young people in trouble? (punishment, treatment)
   e. To what extent should the community be involved in prevention or early intervention of youth problems?
   f. At what point should the community intervene?

8. The current health care system does not provide care for all. Many are uninsured, underinsured, poor or otherwise unable to buy health care. Communities have often found ways to partially fill the gap. In our community we have Free Clinics to help those not eligible for Medicaid.
   a. How should these needs be paid for?
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that services are available?

General Public: Group 13

1.   Prevention (e.g., cancer screenings, cholesterol checks, and immunizations) is the most cost-effective way to maintain good health.
   a.   Should rewards or penalties be built into private or public insurance plans to promote the use of these services to prevent unhealthy behaviors?
   b.   What keeps people from using these services?

2.   Early detection and treatment of chronic diseases can reduce their severity.
   a.   What services/screenings could (health care providers, agecies/organizations) offer to reduce the impact of chronic disease in Prince William?
   b.   To what extent should these services be available to those who cannot pay?
   c.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that these services are available?

3.   Persons under the age of 18 represent almost one-third of the population of Prince William. Because many of our families have two wage earners, children are often left unsupervised for several hours each day. As these unsupervised youth reach out to a peer group, they may become involved in gangs or criminal activities.
   a.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for the actions of our young people?
   b.   How should we (community) deal with young people in trouble? (punishment, treatment)
   c.   Who, if anyone, should pay for their treatment?
   d.   To what extent should the community be involved in prevention or early intervention of youth problems?
   e.   At what point should the community intervene?

4.   a.   Should a persons insurance support wellness activities (smoking cessation programs and exercise or nutrition programs)?
   b.   What types of activities should the insurers support?
   c.   Should wellness counseling be available through employee assistance programs?

5.   Ergonomics is a science that studies the effect that a work place has on a worker. This includes studying the work environment, tools, and tasks that a worker is exposed to regularly. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Occupational Safety and Health Administration have identified ergonomics as an issue that effects the productivity of a worker and the workers overall quality of life. This is true for all types of workers from those who do office work to those that perform manual labor.
   a. How important is this issue in our community?
   b. How should this issue be addressed in our community?
   c. What should a plan for addressing ergonomics issues include?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for implementing and evaluating the plan?

6.   a. Would you say that the public has enough information about items that may affect the local Environment?

        b. How do you usually get information about the environment?

        c. How would you like to get this kind of information?

        d. How much input should the public have in shaping environmental policy?

        e. What is the most important environmental issue facing our community?

        f. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for addressing that issue?

7.   The elderly are often looked upon as a vulnerable group.

        a. To what extent should the community be responsible for providing assistance to the elderly?

        b. What services should be provided?

        c. Who, if anyone, should provide them?

        d. Who, if anyone, should pay for the specialized services needed to reach this population?

8.   Basic health care can be provided in a variety of ways. (everyone has the same services, by ability to pay, or a combination of the two). How should health care be organized and provided in our community?

        a. Health care can also be paid for in a variety of ways (by the government, through insurers, or by the patient). Which method do you think would best serve our community?

        b. Which of the activities involved in distributing and paying for health care should be regulated? By whom?

        c. Some expensive services or scarce services (heart surgery, organ transplants) are not available to everyone who might need them. How do you think these scarce resources should be divided up?

General Public: Group 14

1.   To decrease the number of unintended pregnancies, access to family planning services must be available.
    a. Do you feel that the government (federal, state, and local) should make sure that health insurance coverage for family planning services is available and affordable for everyone?
    b. If not the government, who should be responsible for making sure that these services are available and affordable?

2.   People with chronic diseases face many obstacles (access to care, getting prescriptions, housing, lack of income, insurance problems, not knowing where to get help, etc) that may limit their ability to live life to the fullest.
    a. To what degree should a community attempt to intervene in quality of life issues?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for intervening?
    c. How should we (the community) intervene?
    d. Which of these problems should be the top priority?

3.   Some mental health problems can be prevented, thus avoiding more costly treatment. However, prevention services are often reduced or eliminated when funds are tight in order to preserve treatment services.
    a. How important are mental health prevention services in our community?
    b. How should these services be funded?
    c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?

4.   a. What is missing from our current system that is needed to support everyone in their wellness activities?
    b. Is our current system available to everyone? Why or why not?
    c. What do we (community, agencies/organizations) need to do to promote the idea of lifelong fitness and wellness in our community?

5.   Hearing loss caused by noise in the workplace is a problem that occurs in many settings. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has had a noise standard in place for many years but there are still workers suffering from hearing loss. Today we can identify noise levels that damage hearing, provide protective equipment to the worker, and monitor the worker in the areas of exposure.
    a. Is this an issue of concern in our community?
    b. How important is it compared to other issues of employee health?
    c. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that employees are protected from this problem?
    d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that workers are protected?

6.   A major problem in this area is traffic congestion. This wastes time and effects air quality because of increased auto emissions. There have been a lot of suggestions about ways to address this problem.
        a. What do you think should be done to address this problem effectively?
        b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for dealing with the problem?

7.   Many persons with chronic mental illness or other mental disorders may not be able to live independently. The law states that group homes may be located in any neighborhood.
        a. Where should group homes or supervised apartments be located?
        b. How would you feel if a group home moved into your neighborhood?
        c. Who should decide where these homes are located?
        d. How should these residential arrangements be funded?

8.   How important is protecting the public from the spread of diseases such as AIDS, e.coli, hepatitis, and tuberculosis) through outbreak investigations and control. What impacts on your own privacy and rights do you feel you might accept for varying levels of safety?

General Public: Group 15

1.   Counseling about nutrition, vitamins, and lifestyle before pregnancy is a necessary part of planning a healthy pregnancy, yet women without health insurance will not receive insurance coverage (i.e. Medicaid) unless they are already pregnant. Who, if anyone, in our community should be responsible for making sure that all reproductive age females have this health service available to them?

2.   Chronic diseases have many causes. Some of these can be prevented with education and intervention.
    a. Are we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) doing enough in our community to prevent chronic diseases?
    b. What else should we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) be doing? With whom?
    c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing prevention services?
    d. What causes of chronic disease should we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) attempt to intervene in?
    e. Are there disease-causing substances or circumstances in our community that are over-regulated? Under-regulated?

3.   Many new medications for the treatment of mental illness and other mental disorders have come on the market in the last decade. Persons with mental illness are usually aware of these medications because of heavy advertising in the popular media. Typically, new medications are costly because of the research costs in developing them. However, some of these new drugs have allowed persons who have spent time in mental institutions to return to live in the community.
    a. When is it appropriate to offer new medications to people?
    b. Who, if anyone, should pay for these medications?
    c. If new drugs allow people to return to the community, where should they live?
    d. What responsibility does the community have to ensure the acceptance of returning people?
    e. Who, if anyone, is responsible for their care?

4.	Tobacco and alcohol are products that have been proven to be harmful to health. The use of these products is regulated through age restrictions and taxes.
	a.	Should tobacco and other harmful products be regulated out of use or should we (agencies/organizations) use other methods to discourage their use such as prohibition and taxation?
	b.	Should the state set limits on health intervention such as tobacco control or should localities be allowed to have additional restrictions?
	c.	Should there be different types of regulations and penalties for activities that harm yourself versus those that also harm others such as second hand smoke and driving under the influence?
	d.	How should the regulations be different?
	e.	Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcing them?

5.	What is the most pressing occupational safety and health issue in our community?

6.	Over the past few years an effort has been made to promote and/or require recycling of certain materials such as glass, metals, paper and yard waste.
	a.	Do you feel these efforts have been effective?
	b.	How should recycling be encouraged and increased? (Should recycling be mandatory?)
	c.	Recycling efforts (incentives or penalties) can be directed at individuals, businesses and industry, or public agencies. Who, if anyone, should be the target of recycling efforts?

7.	Prince William Partnerships for Health defines health-related services very broadly in our community. This definition includes programs such as Neighborhood Watch and community policing.
	a.	What are the responsibilities of health care providers in these types of health-related programs?
	b.	What is the responsibility of a provider for the health of the community above and beyond the patients that go to the doctor?

8.	The government inspects and licenses health care facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, and urgent care centers.
	a.	Do you feel that inspections and licensing protect the public? Why or why not?
	b.	To what extent should the government continue to provide this service?

General Questions

1. What role, if any, should local government play in assuring a community's health?

2. Should the quality and effectiveness of medical care and human service programs be monitored by one agency or organization? How? Who?

3. What is your sense of the extent to which agencies work together on health issues? Who, if anyone, should monitor the collaboration and communication between agencies?

4. What about Prince William makes it a healthy place to live? What about Prince William makes it a less healthy place to live?

5. Do you feel that you have access to high quality medical services in Prince William?

6. What does it take to make a healthy community?

7. What has happened in this community in the last five years that has had the biggest positive impact on your health? What has happened in this community in the last five years that has had the biggest negative impact on your health?

8. What health-related services are provided in the community effectively and efficiently? Which services are not provided effectively and efficiently?

9. If you were put in charge of the health of the citizens of Prince William what one problem would be your top priority?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Preventive/Primary Care Services (hospitals, health dept, private med community)

What role, if any, should local government play in assuring a community's health?

1.   Many illnesses and injuries can be prevented completely or at least made less severe with regular visits to health care providers. However, these preventive and primary care services need to be readily available.
    a. What preventive services do you think should be available as part of primary care?
    b. Should these services be available through public funds for everyone or should the public only pay for services that will save money in the long run?
    c. Who, if anyone, should make these services available for everyone?

2.   In order for health care policies (preventive services, primary care, emergency services, and long-term care) to be developed, data must be gathered to describe the needs of our community.
    a. Who should be responsible for collecting the data and making it available for policy makers?
    Agencies in both the public and private sectors must cooperate with one another to develop the appropriate response to a problem once it is identified.
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that agencies cooperate with one another?
    c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring progress after a need has been found?

3.   In our community, a greater number of the uninsured poor population has the ability to receive health insurance for their children.
    a.   Should uninsured families, unable to pay for medical services, be required to apply for public insurance programs before being accepted for "free" care in the health department, free clinic, or emergency rooms?
    b. How can these agencies make sure that those children who qualify for this program are enrolled?
    c.   How can the information be disseminated such that those who qualify become enrolled, but also understand how to utilize this program for their children?

4.   Prevention (e.g., cancer screenings, cholesterol checks, and immunizations) is the most cost-effective way to maintain good health.
    a. Should rewards or penalties be built into private or public insurance plans to promote the use of these services to prevent unhealthy behaviors?
    b. What keeps people from using these services?

5.	To decrease the number of unintended pregnancies, access to family planning services must be available.
	a. Do you feel that the government (federal, state, and local) should make sure that health insurance coverage for family planning services is available and affordable for everyone?
	b. If not the government, who should be responsible for making sure that these services are available and affordable?

6.	Counseling about nutrition, vitamins, and lifestyle before pregnancy is a necessary part of planning a healthy pregnancy, yet women without health insurance will not receive insurance coverage (i.e. Medicaid) unless they are already pregnant. Who, if anyone, in our community should be responsible for making sure that all reproductive age females have this health service available to them?

7.	Nationally and in Prince William dental disease is found more often in the low income population. Often, access to dental care is limited by an individual's ability to pay. Medicaid provides dental coverage only to children and there are very few dental Medicaid providers in the area. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing care to those low income groups unable to access care?

8.	In order to decrease the number of unintended pregnancies, effective and desirable methods of birth control are needed. In the United States product safety information for contraceptives is gathered by continuous monitoring of a product even after it has been approved. This slows down the introduction of new contraceptives into the market and, in some cases, makes products approved in other countries unavailable in the US. What, if anything, should be done to help simplify the process so that contraceptives tested in other countries are available in the US?

9.	The concept of health care as many levels of services from preventive to rehabilitation is probably foreign to most people. How should people be educated regarding the levels of services available to them and how best to use these services for good health?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Government Systems (state agencies, county/city government, federal agencies)

Should the quality and effectiveness of medical care and human service programs be monitored by one agency or organization? How? Who?

1. As the health care industry changes, and welfare systems are restructured, new ways of providing services are emerging. Community not-for-profit charitable organizations are providing <u>health promotion and prevention services</u> that previously were delivered only by hospitals, health departments, and doctors' offices.
    a. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver these health promotion and prevention services (cost, current availability in the community, effectiveness of intervention)?
    b. How should these services be integrated with the services being provided by other agencies in the community?
    c. In some areas the health care industry has begun delivering services, such as contact tracing for infectious disease, that until recently were only provided by health departments. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver <u>health protection services</u>?
    d. How should these services be integrated with those services being provided by other agencies in the community?

2. Data on certain health problems is needed in order for the public health system to run efficiently and to safeguard the health of the community.
    a. What data would you be willing to share for public health needs?
    b. What restrictions would you place on the use of data?
    c. Who should have access to this data?
    d. How much data should they have access to?
    e. When a person is receiving services from a number of different agencies, how much information should be shared between those agencies?
    f. Are there circumstances (such as those directly affecting the safety of the community) where data should be shared or released without your consent?
    g. Who, if anyone, should enforce these rules?

3. Virginia has decided that the Department of Health should monitor the quality of services being provided by managed care programs.
    a. What should this include?
    b. How should it be accomplished?

4. There are many government system structures within our community. Prince William has functions that are performed by local agencies, state agencies with local agents, state agencies without local representation, regional agencies, and federal agencies. What system structure do you think provides the most reasonable tradeoff between service and accountability?

5. a. When you think that food has made you (or your family) ill, how do you go about getting help?
    There are many parts of the process of getting food into stores, homes, and restaurants. They include food purchasing, processing, distribution, preparation, and finally, consumption. The safety of food in the US is managed under Federal, State, and local programs. Many agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, the US Department of Agriculture, the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the VA Department of Health, play a part in setting standards and inspecting for compliance with different phases food process.
    b. What level of protection does the current system provide for our community?
    c. How should the government be organized to best provide protection and advice to you?

6. As the health care system changes, employees of the system need to maintain old skills or learn new ones.
    a. How should we (the community) ensure that our workforce is competent?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring its competence?
    c. Who should pay for additional training of health care workers when needed?

7. The misuse of antibiotics creates resistant organisms. This can happen in animals and in people. However, when you have an illness you usually want the most modern treatment available regardless of the potential for long-term effects on the community (i.e., antibiotic resistance)
    a. Should we (the community) have policies to regulate the use of antibiotics?
    b. Who should develop these policies?
    c. Who, if anyone, should monitor compliance with these policies?

8   (The Department of Environmental Quality is responsible for air and water pollution control in the Commonwealth. The VA Department of Health is responsible for most health-related issues.)
    a. If you had a question about the effects air or water pollution can have on your health, which agency would you call?
    b. What characteristics of each agency make you prefer to call that agency for assistance?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Chronic Diseases (Associations: Heart, Lung, Kidney, Diabetes, Alzheimers, insurers, providers)

What is your sense of the extent to which agencies work together on health issues? Who, if anyone, should monitor the collaboration and communication between agencies?

1.   Because different communities have different populations, chronic disease needs are different.
     a.   What are the most significant needs for our community?
     b.   Should we (providers, agencies/organizations) be focusing more attention on prevention, screening and early detection, or treatment and control?
     c.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making these services available?

2.   Early detection and treatment of chronic diseases can reduce their severity.
     a.   What services/screenings could (health care providers, agecies/organizations) offer to reduce the impact of chronic disease in Prince William?
     b.   To what extent should these services be available to those who cannot pay?
     c.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that these services are available?

3.   People with chronic diseases face many obstacles (access to care, getting prescriptions, housing, lack of income, insurance problems, not knowing where to get help, etc) that may limit their ability to live life to the fullest.
     a.   To what degree should a community attempt to intervene in quality of life issues?
     b.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for intervening?
     c.   How should we (the community) intervene?
     d.   Which of these problems should be the top priority?

4.   Chronic diseases have many causes. Some of these can be prevented with education and intervention.
     a.   Are we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) doing enough in our community to prevent chronic diseases?
     b.   What else should we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) be doing? With whom?
     c.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing prevention services?
     d.   What causes of chronic disease should we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) attempt to intervene in?
     e.   Are there disease-causing substances or circumstances in our community that are over-regulated? Under-regulated?

5.   Most of us know someone with a chronic disease who would be doing better if they received services earlier in the course of their disease.
    a. If you know of such a person, what condition do they suffer from and what services would have helped them?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?
    c. What gaps in services have worsened in the last five years?
    d. Which gaps in services have improved in the last five years?

6.   People with disabilities often suffer from other conditions such as bedsores, urinary tract infections, and respiratory infections. Because these illnesses are problems that are related to their disability they are called secondary conditions.
    a. Are we (community, providers, agencies/organizations) doing enough to prevent secondary conditions?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that secondary conditions are detected and treated early in their course regardless of a person's ability to pay?
    c. How do we (providers, agencies/organizations) make sure that persons with disabilities have access to medical services?
    d. How much should we (providers, agencies/organizations) intervene in the quality of life issues that people with disabilities face?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Infectious Diseases
(providers, health department, vaccine manufacturers)

What about Prince William makes it a healthy place to live? What about Prince William makes it a less healthy place to live?

1.   The Health Department is responsible for gathering information about infectious diseases in our community and notifying people of their risk when they have been exposed.
   a. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) determine which diseases should be reported to the health department?
   b. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that they are reported accurately and quickly?
   c. Should there be penalties for not reporting? What should those penalties be?
   d. What should be done with the information that is collected?
   e. What tools should be available for following up on cases of infectious disease?
   f. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for doing the follow up?

2.   a. When an infectious disease that could pose a harm to you is present in the community, what do you want to know about it?
   b. How do you want to find out about it?
   c. If you are the person with the infectious disease, what do you want people to know?
   d. How do you want them to find out?

3.   For many reasons, such as tracking infectious diseases and monitoring the quality of medical care, information about you is collected and shared between private corporations, providers, and government agencies.
   a. How, if at all, should this sharing be regulated to protect your privacy?
   b. Who, if anyone, should enforce these rules?
   c. Under what conditions (such as those directly affecting the safety of the community) should this information be shared and/or released without your consent?

4.   Some diseases, such as tuberculosis, can pose a risk to the community if an infected person refuses to take measures to protect those around him or her.
   a. What rights should the community have to limit the activities (quarantine or isolation) of such a person?
   b. Under what conditions and supervision should these community rights be enforced?
   c. Who, if anyone, should enforce them?

5.   Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) is supposed to prevent people with infectious diseases from immigrating into our country. However, this regulation is often not enforced which results in infectious diseases being brought into our schools and communities, ultimately costing our system money.
   a. Should INS be able to overpower a state's ability to control infectious diseases?
   b. How should these regulations be enforced?

6. An immunization registry is a computer-based warehouse for immunization histories similar to the old paper shot record. The immunization information can be viewed by participating health care providers. This means that each time a person went to a provider, that provider would have access to an up-to-date shot record for that person.
    a. If Virginia had a statewide immunization registry would you participate in the registry? Why or why not?
    b. Who should be responsible for maintaining the registry?
    c. Who should have access to the registry information?
    d. How should a patient's privacy be assured?

7. Immunizations are one of the most effective ways to prevent infectious diseases.
    a. In your opinion, what are the major reasons that people do not get immunized?
    b. In your opinion, what are the major reasons that prevent health care providers from giving immunizations?
    c. How would you fix these problems?
    d. Which problems should be addressed first?
    e. Who should be responsible for addressing these problems?

8. Many people expect their doctor to use the most modern antibiotics available to treat their illness. Should we (community, agencies/organizations) require doctors to use older antibiotics to slow down the development of antibiotic resistant organisms?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Mental Health and Mental Disorders
(CSB, advocacy groups, providers)

Do you feel that you have access to high quality medical services in Prince William?

1. Over the past several decades, treatment of persons with mental illness and other mental disorders has shifted from institutions to the community. Persons with mental disorders are now typically hospitalized only for very short stays for crisis stabilization.
    a. Where should persons with mental disorders be treated?
    b. Who, if anyone, should pay for the treatment?
    c. How should regular medical and dental care be provided for people who received their care in an institution in the past?

2. Managed care has significantly changed access to mental health treatment services, even for persons with health insurance. Most insurance policies will pay for only very short stays (one or two days) in an inpatient setting.
    a. What types of mental health services should be covered by insurers (including Medicaid)?
    b. Should coverage be the same for all age groups (children, adults, elderly)?
    c. What is a community's responsibility to provide mental health services to the uninsured?
    d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing mental health services to the uninsured?

3. Persons under the age of 18 represent almost one-third of the population of Prince William. Because many of our families have two wage earners, children are often left unsupervised for several hours each day. As these unsupervised youth reach out to a peer group, they may become involved in gangs or criminal activities.
    a. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for the actions of our young people?
    b. How should we (community) deal with young people in trouble? (punishment, treatment)
    c. Who, if anyone, should pay for their treatment?
    d. To what extent should the community be involved in prevention or early intervention of youth problems?
    e. At what point should the community intervene?

4. Some mental health problems can be prevented, thus avoiding more costly treatment. However, prevention services are often reduced or eliminated when funds are tight in order to preserve treatment services.
    a. How important are mental health prevention services in our community?
    b. How should these services be funded?
    c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?

5. Many new medications for the treatment of mental illness and other mental disorders have come on the market in the last decade. Persons with mental illness are usually aware of these medications because of heavy advertising in the popular media. Typically, new medications are costly because of the research costs in developing them. However, some of these new drugs have allowed persons who have spent time in mental institutions to return to live in the community.
    a. When is it appropriate to offer new medications to people?
    b. Who, if anyone, should pay for these medications?
    c. If new drugs allow people to return to the community, where should they live?
    d. What responsibility does the community have to ensure the acceptance of returning people?
    e. Who, if anyone, is responsible for their care?

6. Many persons with chronic mental illness or other mental disorders may not be able to live independently. The law states that group homes may be located in any neighborhood.
    a. Where should group homes or supervised apartments be located?
    b. How would you feel if a group home moved into your neighborhood?
    c. Who should decide where these homes are located?
    d. How should these residential arrangements be funded?

7. Current laws provide funding for specialized services for persons with mental disorders and other disabilities up to the age of 22 through our public school systems. With proper supervision and advocacy, many of these persons can be gainfully employed, thus helping to avert crises requiring expensive inpatient stays for stabilization.
    a. Should supervised employment be provided for these persons?
    b. If so, who should fund these special services?
    c. Where should people with mental disorders who are employed through such a program live?
    d. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) ensure that they have adequate transportation to and from their workplaces?

8. Many elderly are known to suffer from depression. Suicide among the elderly is high, yet the elderly are difficult to reach with traditional services because of physical and social isolation.
    a. What is the community's responsibility to reach out to this group?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that the elderly have access to needed services?
    c. Who, if anyone, should pay for the specialized services needed to reach this population?

9.   Many adults with mental illness or other mental disorders have been cared for at home by their families. As their caretakers age and die, these people lose their lifelong support system.
      a.   What is the community's role in caring for these people when their caretakers can no longer do it?
      b.   Who, if anyone, should pay for this care?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Substance Abuse
 (CSB, advocacy groups, providers, police, schools)

What does it take to make a healthy community?

1.   In our community, <u>insurance coverage</u> for inpatient substance abuse treatment is very rare. At most, a person has coverage for inpatient detoxification and limited outpatient counseling.
   a.   To what extent should substance abuse services be covered by health care plans?
   b.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?
   c.   Should these services be available repeatedly for those with recurring abuse problems?
   d.   Should people <u>without insurance</u> have access to the same substance abuse services?
   e.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these services?
   f.   What roles should various groups play in addressing substance abuse issues?

2.   Research shows that most substance abusers begin using alcohol or drugs early in life.
   a.   Whose responsibility is it to teach and counsel children?
   b.   What is the best way to prevent substance abuse by our children?
   c.   Should all children receive substance abuse prevention or should these services be targeted to high risk children?
   d.   How do we (community, agencies/organizations) best get messages to children?
   e.   What messages do you think they are hearing?
   f.   What many resources should we be devoting to prevention? Intervention? Treatment?

3.   In our community insurance coverage for inpatient and residential treatment for substance abuse has declined so dramatically that correctional facilities are considered by many to be the best source of this type of treatment.
   a.   What does this say about a community's view of substance abuse and substance abusers?
   b.   What should we (community, agencies/organizations) be doing in our community to treat people with substance abuse problems?

4.   Every year many infants are born affected by alcohol or drugs because their mothers abused these substances while they were pregnant.
   a.   How should we (community, agency/organizations) address this issue in our community?
   b.   Under what circumstances should a community intervene on behalf of the unborn child?
   c.   How should a community intervene in these situations?

5. Women with children often have an additional challenge in getting help with substance abuse problems—care for the children.
    a. What substance abuse services should be available to women with children?
    b. What is our responsibility to the children while the mother is being treated?

6. Evidence shows that many motor vehicle crashes that involve alcohol are caused by repeat offenders.
    a. What should we (community, agencies/organizations) be doing to address this issue?
    b. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) prevent driving under the influence?
    c. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) prevent repeat offenses?

7. Substance abuse among the elderly population is especially challenging because of denial of the abuse and the isolation that many elderly face.
    a. What services should be available for the elderly?
    b. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that they have access to these services?
    c. How do we prevent (community) the social isolation that often leads to substance abuse in this population?

8. Halfway houses were once a popular way to provide residential treatment for substance abuse. They are no longer widely accepted or used in our community.
    a. Are halfway houses an acceptable way of providing substance abuse treatment?
    b. Should halfway houses be established in our community?
    c. What other residential treatment options should be available?
    d. How would you feel if there was a proposal to build a halfway house in your neighborhood?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Wellness

(Associations: Heart, Lung, Kidney, Diabetes, Alzheimers, George Mason, fitness centers, hospitals, health dept, non-profits)

What has happened in this community in the last five years that has had the biggest positive impact on your health? What has happened in this community in the last five years that has had the biggest negative impact on your health?

1.
   a. Should a persons insurance support wellness activities (smoking cessation programs and exercise or nutrition programs)?
   b. What types of activities should the insurers support?
   c. Should wellness counseling be available through employee assistance programs?

2.
   a. What is missing from our current system that is needed to support everyone in their wellness activities?
   b. Is our current system available to everyone? Why or why not?
   c. What do we (community, agencies/organizations) need to do to promote the idea of lifelong fitness and wellness in our community?

3. Tobacco and alcohol are products that have been proven to be harmful to health. The use of these products is regulated through age restrictions and taxes.
   a. Should tobacco and other harmful products be regulated out of use or should we (agencies/organizations) use other methods to discourage their use such as prohibition and taxation?
   b. Should the state set limits on health intervention such as tobacco control or should localities be allowed to have additional restrictions?
   c. Should there be different types of regulations and penalties for activities that harm yourself versus those that also harm others such as second hand smoke and driving under the influence?
   d. How should the regulations be different?
   e. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcing them?

4. Wellness activities are a personal choice but can have consequences for others in the long term.
   a. Should the community be accountable for wellness activities or should they be the responsibility of individuals?
   b. Should the community pay for the consequences of poor wellness choices?

5.
   a. Does our current system of describing the quality of nutrition help people?
   b. How should this system work?
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that the people of our community understand nutritional information and can plan healthy diets?

6. a. What should we (community, agencies/organizations) be doing to identify people with eating disorders or nutritional problems?
    b. What services should we provide (agencies/organizations) to people with nutritional problems?
    c. Who, if anyone, should provide these services?

7. a. What education, advice, and supervision should be provided at exercise facilities in our community? (fitness centers, recreation facilities, and schools)
    b. Who, if anyone, should provide this service?

8. Schools have regulations requiring them to provide nutritious meals to children.
    a. Do children take advantage of these meals?
    b. How do we (community, schools) encourage participation in this service?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Employee Health and Productivity (hospitals, health department, industry: Toshiba, IBM, Dominion Semiconductor, Mobil Oil, NVBIA, Fire and Rescue)

What health-related services are provided in the community effectively and efficiently? Which services are not provided effectively and efficiently?

1. Preventable illnesses can have a great impact on workplaces due to employee absences for personal illness or a child's illness.
   a. What can we (communities, agencies/organizations) do in our community to decrease the impact this has on the workplace?
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for addressing this issue?

2. a. What would you, as an employee, do if you thought there was something unsafe in your workplace?
   b. Do you feel that information about safety issues is easy to get in your place of employment?
   c. Do you feel that there would be negative consequences if you reported a problem?

3. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration develops policies to protect workers against many work place hazards.
   a. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for educating employers about OSHA policies?
   b. How should we (agencies/organizations) monitor compliance with OSHA policies?
   c. Should there be a punishment for violations of the policy?

4. Indoor air quality in the workplace is an issue that has been identified as a concern of today's workforce. The Environmental Protection Agency, National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health, and the Occupational Safety and Health Administration deal with issues that range from infectious diseases to dangerous substances, such as asbestos.
   a. Do you think indoor air quality is a concern within our community? How important is this concern compared to other employee health issues?
   b. How should we (agencies/organizations) deal with this problem in our community?
   c. *(If answer deals with regulation then ask):* Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcement of these policies?

5. Contaminated blood in the workplace is an issue that the Occupational Safety and Health Administration (OSHA) has addressed since 1992 through the development of a standard policy. Before 1992, healthcare institutions dealt with this problem individually through their infection control programs. In spite of these efforts, healthcare workers contracted such things as Hepatitis B while doing their jobs. The OSHA policy expands the former guidelines to include many workers that are not employees of healthcare institutions. Therefore, there are numerous individuals in our community who could be included in the OSHA Standard.
    a. Is contaminated blood in the workplace an issue of concern in our community?
    b. Is it an issue that is important for employees outside of the health care field?
    c. How can we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that employees are protected?
    d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that workers are protected?

6. Employee childcare is an issue that receives a great deal of media attention in our country. With the increase in single parent households and the increased need for two-incomes, employee childcare is increasing.
    a. Is this an issue of concern in our community?
    b. There are several ways in which childcare can be provided for employees: financial support for sending children to certified childcare centers, on-site child care facilities, support for before and after school programs, and support for specialized care for sick children. Which of these methods do you think is most effective?
    c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing childcare?
    d. How should childcare programs be funded?

7. Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of deaths in the workplace nationally. Whether it is a delivery truck driver or an employee on the roads in the course of his duties, our workers are exposed to this hazard. There are training programs in place to educate employees in the safe operation and maintenance of their vehicle.
    a. How important is this issue in our community compared to other employee health issues?
    b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing training courses for employees?
    c. Should drivers training courses be mandatory for employees who regularly operate a vehicle for work purposes?
    d. How often should employees have to take such a course?
    e. Who, if anyone, should monitor compliance with driver education policies?

8.	Ergonomics is a science that studies the effect that a work place has on a worker. This includes studying the work environment, tools, and tasks that a worker is exposed to regularly. The National Institute for Occupational Safety and Health and Occupational Safety and Health Administration have identified ergonomics as an issue that effects the productivity of a worker and the workers overall quality of life. This is true for all types of workers from those who do office work to those that perform manual labor.

a.	How important is this issue in our community?

b.	How should this issue be addressed in our community?

c.	What should a plan for addressing ergonomics issues include?

d.	Who, if anyone, should be responsible for implementing and evaluating the plan?

9.	Hearing loss caused by noise in the workplace is a problem that occurs in many settings. The Occupational Safety and Health Administration has had a noise standard in place for many years but there are still workers suffering from hearing loss. Today we can identify noise levels that damage hearing, provide protective equipment to the worker, and monitor the worker in the areas of exposure.

a.	Is this an issue of concern in our community?

b.	How important is it compared to other issues of employee health?

c.	How should we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that employees are protected from this problem?

d.	Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that workers are protected?

10.	What is the most pressing occupational safety and health issue in our community?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Injury/Violence Prevention
(schools, police, courts, ACTS, emergency services)

If you were put in charge of the health of the citizens of Prince William what one problem would be your top priority?

1.   Injuries can be unintentional such as a person falling, and intentional, such as an assault.
    a.   Which kinds of injuries do you think are the most important?
    b.   How should the community decide which kinds of injuries should be addressed?
    c.   What strategies should we use to prevent injuries? (regulations, inspections, protective equipment, education)

2.   Many people believe that youth violence is increasing because of the lack of family and community support for youth. In our community, one survey found that 20% of elementary school students were either "latch key" kids or watched over by siblings before and after school. Another survey found that under-supervision of youth was considered to be one of the most significant problems in our community.
    a.   How do you think that these problems have affected youth?
    b.   How should we (community) address the problem of under-supervision of youth in our community?
    c.   What role, if any, should the schools play in violence prevention?
    d.   When is it appropriate for the community to intervene on behalf of a child?
    e.   How should the community intervene in situations where the family has not been able to prevent violence?

3.   There are many circumstances where injuries can be prevented through regulations that may be viewed as an invasion of personal freedom, such as mandating seat belt or helmet use.
    a.   Is this an effective way of reducing the impact of injuries in our community?
    b.   When should an individual's rights be limited for the greater good of the community?

4.   Motor vehicle crashes are the number one cause of death for people under the age of 44.
    a.   How important is this issue in our community?
    b.   Is graduated licensing for new drivers an effective way to prevent motor vehicle crashes? Should it be instituted in our community?
    c.   Is mandatory seat belt use an effective way to reduce motor vehicle crash injuries and deaths? How should seat belt use be enforced?
    d.   How should we (community, agencies/organizations) ensure that children are riding in the appropriate restraints? How should we make sure that the restraints are used properly?
    e.   Should the use of bike helmets be mandated? If so, who should be required to wear them?

5. Many communities rely on Neighborhood Watch and other such programs to reduce crime and violence.
   a. How effective are these programs at preventing crime and violence? (If not effective, what are some effective ways to prevent crime and violence?)
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for crime and violence prevention?
   c. What can we (community, agencies/organizations) do to develop a sense of community in Prince William?

6. Every year guns are responsible for a number of unintentional and intentional injuries and deaths.
   a. Is gun safety an important issue for our community?
   b. Is safety regarding other weapons important in our community?
   c. How should we address this issue?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for addressing it?
   e. Should there be punishments for parents and guardians if their children injure someone with a gun?

7. Many neighbors are confused about how domestic violence will affect them and their neighbors if they call the police with information about suspected domestic violence.
   a. Currently, what is the best way for citizens get help for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence?
   b. How effective is the current system for getting help for victims and perpetrators of domestic violence?
   c. What are the choices for a neighbor when a child shares with them about violence in his/her home?
   d. Is the fear of reporting a neighbor a concern in our community?
   e. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) address this concern?
   f. How much responsibility does a community have to provide assistance to those victims who leave an abusive relationship?
   g. What services should be provided?
   h. Who, if anyone, should provide these services?

8. Community concern for the elderly includes the need for this population to be protected from abuse by a partner or a fatigued caregiver.
   a. Which type of elder abuse (partner or caregiver) is of most concern in our community?
   b. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) prevent each type of abuse?
   c. What can we (community) do to make sure that the community seeks immediate and appropriate help for individuals who are being abused by a partner or a fatigued caregiver
   d. What is the community's responsibility in providing assistance to the elderly?

What role, if any, should local government play in assuring a community's health?

1. The environment of Prince William is regulated by Federal, State, and Local authorities. Several new regulations such as auto emissions testing and pollution discharge permitting have taken effect recently.
   a. What areas of the environment do you see improving?
   b. What areas of the environment do you see getting worse?
   c. What can be done to improve our environment?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for doing it?

2. There are a number of agencies involved in protecting and regulating the environment. A few examples include the Department of Environmental Quality, the Department of Health, Fire and Rescue, and Public Works.
   a. Do you believe there are enough safety measures in place to protect the Environment?
   b. Is there enough enforcement of environmental regulations?
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcing environmental policies?
   d. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) make sure that all of the agencies working on environmental issues are working together?
   e. Do you feel that these safety measures in place to protect the environment have a noticeable impact on your health?

3. There are many things that people do that can have a negative impact on the Environment such as improper fertilizing of lawns, lack of vehicle maintenance, burning of leaves, and littering. Some communities have laws limiting the use of types of gas powered equipment to reduce air pollution.
   a. Do you believe that such regulation is necessary to improve the Environment?
   b. What forms of regulation do you favor?
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for enforcing these regulations?
   d. How should they be enforced?

4 Prince William is a developing community. The rate and type of development occurring in our community can result in changes in the environment. As a result, many local regulations, such as buffer areas, preserving streams and natural areas, replanting trees, and constructing storm water facilities, have been enacted to counter these changes and create a balance.
   a. Do you feel these regulations have improved or helped maintain the Environment?
   b. Do you think that these regulations protect the health of our community?
   c. Do these regulations create new problems? If so, what kinds of problems?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for studying the long term effects of these measures?

5   a. Would you say that the public has enough information about items that may affect the local Environment?
        b. How do you usually get information about the environment?
        c. How would you like to get this kind of information?
        d. How much input should the public have in shaping environmental policy?
        e. What is the most important environmental issue facing our community?
        f. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for addressing that issue?

6   A major problem in this area is traffic congestion. This wastes time and effects air quality because of increased auto emissions. There have been a lot of suggestions about ways to address this problem.
        a. What do you think should be done to address this problem effectively?
        b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for dealing with the problem?

7   Over the past few years an effort has been made to promote and/or require recycling of certain materials such as glass, metals, paper and yard waste.
        a. Do you feel these efforts have been effective?
        b. How should recycling be encouraged and increased? (Should recycling be mandatory?)
        c. Recycling efforts (incentives or penalties) can be directed at individuals, businesses and industry, or public agencies. Who, if anyone, should be the target of recycling efforts?

8.   The misuse of antibiotics creates resistance organisms. This can happen in animals and in people. However, when you have an illness you usually want the most modern treatment available regardless of the long term effects such a drug may have on the community at large.

        a. Should we (community, agencies/organizations) have policies to regulate the use of antibiotics?
        b. Who, if anyone, should develop these policies?
        c. Who, if anyone, should monitor compliance with these policies?

Should the quality and effectiveness of medical care and human service programs be monitored by one agency or organization? How? Who?

1. a. When you think that food has made you (or your family) ill, how do you go about getting help?
There are many parts of the process of getting food into stores, homes, and restaurants. They include food purchasing, processing, distribution, preparation, and finally, consumption. The safety of food in the US is managed under Federal, State, and local programs. Many agencies including the Food and Drug Administration, the US Department of Agriculture, the VA Department of Agriculture and Consumer Services and the VA Department of Health, play a part in setting standards and inspecting for compliance with different phases food process.
    b. Does the current system provide enough protection for our community?
    c. How should the government be organized to best provide protection and advice to you?
    d. What do you feel would provide the greatest improvement in Food Safety? (increased inspections, tighter standards or penalties for those not complying)

2. Many agencies participate in food safety issues, each with a different area of responsibility.
    a. Do you believe this leads to greater protection or creates lack of coverage in certain areas?
    b. Do you believe there is enough inter agency communication and notification of Food Safety incidents or problems?
    c. To what extent could these problems be addressed by centralizing all inspections and regulations?

3. Many agencies are responsible for Food Safety.
    a. Do you believe that Food Safety inspections should all be performed by a centralized agency for all elements of the Food Industry? (restaurants, food stores, suppliers and growers)
    b. Should the inspection agency or agencies be local, state, or federal?

4. a. Do you believe that enough information about food safety issues is made available to the public?
    b. Is this information given to the public soon enough?
    c. How could this information be made more readily available?
    d. How should the public be notified of possible incidents of food poisoning?

5. a. Do you feel that food inspections or regulations should include private organizations? (civic clubs or religious institutions)
    b. To what extent should they be included in inspections? (limited to functions open to the Public at large such as fund raising dinners or for all functions)

6. The Department of Agriculture is responsible for food inspections and regulations especially when food crosses state lines. This includes regulations for how food is grown and how cattle, fish and poultry are raised.
    a. Do you feel that this is sufficient?
    b. Should State or Local agencies have greater control over food items entering or leaving this community?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Vulnerabilities and Disparities (non-profits, minority groups, persons with disabilities, schools)

What is your sense of the extent to which agencies work together on health issues? Who, if anyone, should monitor the collaboration and communication between agencies?

1. Healthy People 2010 has adopted two broad goals for the nation's health: increase the quality and years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities. These goals recognize that individual members of a community may be at risk because of their own particular situations (poverty) and that members groups within the community may be at risk because of their membership in that group (race, gender).
   a. Under what circumstances should people be eligible for special programs?
   b. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) determine who should be eligible?
   c. How do we (community, agencies/organizations) identify classifications for people in order to determine population needs?

2. a. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) identify special population groups within our community?
   b. How can we (community, agencies/organizations) determine which groups need the most immediate attention?
   c. To what extent should the community support special needs?
   d. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) support those with special needs?
   e. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these supports?

3. As the community changes, the special needs of individuals and groups will also change.
   a. How should we (community, agencies/organizations) monitor these changes and needs?
   b. How will we (community, agencies/organizations) know when we have succeeded in reaching and assisting those with special needs (i.e., when we have eliminated disparities)?

4. a. To what extent do special population groups have access to quality medical care?
   b. To what extent do special populations have access to support services?
   c. How much should the community provide for those with special needs?

5.   Many people believe that the changes in society (two parent working families and single parent families) have resulted in a large group of vulnerable youth. This problem may be even worse in our community because of the effects of commuting.
   a.   What can we (community, agencies/organizations) do to minimize the impact of commuting on families?
   b.   How can we (community, agencies/organizations) create a sense of community to combat this societal change?
   c.   Who, if anyone, should be responsible for the actions of our young people?
   d.   How should we (community) deal with young people in trouble? (punishment, treatment)
   e.   To what extent should the community be involved in prevention or early intervention of youth problems?
   f.   At what point should the community intervene?

6.   The elderly are often looked upon as a vulnerable group.
   a. To what extent should the community be responsible for providing assistance to the elderly?
   b. What services should be provided?
   c. Who, if anyone, should provide them?
   d. Who, if anyone, should pay for the specialized services needed to reach this population?

7.   Many persons with chronic mental illness or other mental disorders may not be able to live independently. The law states that group homes may be located in any neighborhood.
   a.   Where should group homes or supervised apartments be located?
   b.   How would you feel if a group home moved into your neighborhood?
   c.   Who should decide where these homes are located?
   d.   How should these residential arrangements be funded?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Health Systems (hospitals, health dept, providers, medical society, managed care organizations, dental association, insurers)

What about Prince William makes it a healthy place to live? What about Prince William makes it a less healthy place to live?

1.   Prince William Partnerships for Health defines health-related services very broadly in our community. This definition includes programs such as Neighborhood Watch and community policing.
   a.   What are the responsibilities of health care providers in these types of health-related programs?
   b.   What is the responsibility of a provider for the health of the community above and beyond the patients that go to the doctor?

2.   What is a hospital's role in community prevention?

3.   As the health care industry changes, and welfare systems are restructured, new ways of providing services are emerging. Community not-for-profit charitable organizations are providing <u>health promotion and prevention services</u> that previously were delivered only by hospitals, health departments, and doctors' offices.
   a.   What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver these health promotion and prevention services (cost, current availability in the community, effectiveness of intervention)?
   b.   How should these services be integrated with the services being provided by other agencies in the community?
   c.   In some areas the health care industry has begun delivering services, such as contact tracing for infectious disease, that until recently were only provided by health departments. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver <u>health protection services</u>?
   d.   How should these services be integrated with those services being provided by other agencies in the community?

4.   a.   To what extent does the health department duplicate services already being provided in the community?
   b.   Is this duplication appropriate?
   c.   To what extent should the health department provide clinical services?
             (what kinds of clinical services?)(what should the health department do?)

5.   a.   To what extent do non-profit agencies duplicate services already being provided in the community?
       b.   Is this duplication appropriate?
       c.   To what extent should these agencies provide clinical services?
         (what kinds of clinical services?)(what should these agencies do?)
       d.   To what extent should these agencies provide health promotion services?
          (what kinds?)(what kinds of health related activities should they be involved in?)

6.   Many illnesses and injuries can be prevented completely or at least made less severe with regular visits to health care providers. However, these preventive and primary care services need to be readily available.
      a. What preventive services do you think should be available as part of primary care?
      b. Should these services be available through public funds for everyone or should the public only pay for services that will save money in the long run?
      c. Who, if anyone, should make these services available for everyone?

7.   In our community, a greater number of the uninsured poor population has the ability to receive health insurance for their children.
      a.   Should uninsured families, unable to pay for medical services, be required to apply for public insurance programs before being accepted for "free" care in the health department, free clinic, or emergency rooms?
      b. How can these agencies make sure that those children who qualify for this program are enrolled?
      c. How can the information be disseminated such that those who qualify become enrolled, but also understand how to utilize this program for their children?

8.   Prevention (e.g., cancer screenings, cholesterol checks, and immunizations) is the most cost-effective way to maintain good health.
      a. Should rewards or penalties be built into private or public insurance plans to promote the use of these services to prevent unhealthy behaviors?
      b. What keeps people from using these services?

9.   In order for health care policies (preventive services, primary care, emergency services, and long-term care) to be developed, data must be gathered to describe the needs of our community.
      a. Who should be responsible for collecting the data and making it available for policy makers?
      b. Agencies in both the public and private sectors must cooperate with one another to develop the appropriate response to a problem once it is identified.
      c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that agencies cooperate with one another?
      d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring progress after a need has been found?

10.   The concept of health care as a many levels of services from preventive to rehabilitation is probably foreign to most people. How should people be educated regarding the levels of services available to them and how best to use these services for good health?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Community Versus Autonomy

Do you feel that you have access to high quality medical services in Prince William?

1. There are many health issues that involve a choice between an individuals right and a community responsibility. One example of such an issue is immunizations. Policies regarding immunizations have to find a balance between an individual's wishes and community protection. Where do you draw the line between individual choice and community responsibility? How much should an individual's right to choose be honored in policies?

2. Data on certain health problems is needed in order for the public health system to run efficiently and to safeguard the health of the community.
   a. What data would you be willing to share for public health needs?
   b. What restrictions would you place on the use of data?
   c. How much data should they have access to?
   d. When a person is receiving services from a number of different agencies, should information be shared between those agencies?
   e. Are there circumstances such as those directly affecting the safety of the community, where data should be shared or released without your consent?
   f. Who, if anyone, should enforce these rules?

3. The current health care system does not provide care for all. Many are uninsured, underinsured, poor or otherwise unable to buy health care. Communities have often found ways to partially fill the gap. In our community we have Free Clinics to help those not eligible for Medicaid.
   a. How should these needs be paid for?
   b. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for making sure that services are available?

4. Basic health care can be provided in a variety of ways. (everyone has the same services, by ability to pay, or a combination of the two). How should health care be organized and provided in our community?
   a. Health care can also be paid for in a variety of ways (by the government, through insurers, or by the patient). Which method do you think would best serve our community?
   b. Which of the activities involved in distributing and paying for health care should be regulated? By whom?
   c. Some expensive services or scarce services (heart surgery, organ transplants) are not available to everyone who might need them. How do you think these scarce resources should be divided up?

5.	How important is protecting the public from the spread of diseases such as AIDS, e.coli, hepatitis, and tuberculosis) through outbreak investigations and control. What impacts on your own privacy and rights do you feel you might accept for varying levels of safety?

6.	The government inspects and licenses health care facilities such as hospitals, nursing homes, and urgent care centers.
	a.	Do you feel that inspections and licensing protect the public? Why or why not?
	b.	To what extent should the government continue to provide this service?

7.	Some diseases, such as tuberculosis, can pose a risk to the community if someone who is infectious refuses to take measures to protect those around him or her.
	a.	What rights should the community have to limit the activities (quarantine or isolation) of such a person?
	b.	Under what conditions and supervision should these community rights be enforced?
	c.	Who, if anyone, should enforce them?

8.	Above and beyond the income of individual practitioners, Medicine in the United States is big business, and health systems, insurance companies and hospitals charge for their services. Even non-profit institutions often charge for services and pay staff to provide those services. Profit is reinvested to expand services to the people served or is paid to investors as dividends. How high can a profit margin be and still be morally acceptable in medicine?

9.	Many people believe that the changes in society such as two parent working families and single parent families have resulted in a large group of vulnerable youth. This problem may be even worse in our community because of the effects of commuting. In our community, one survey found that 20% of elementary school students were either "latch key" kids or watched over by siblings before and after school. Another survey found that under-supervision of youth was considered to be one of the most significant problems in our community.
	a.	How do you think that these problems have affected youth?
	b.	What can we (community, agencies/organizations) do to minimize the impact of commuting on families?
	c.	How should we (community, agencies/organizations) address the problem of under-supervision of youth in our community?
	d.	When is it appropriate for the community to intervene on behalf of a child?
	e.	How can we (community, agencies/organizations) create a sense of community to combat this societal change?

10.	Wellness activities are a personal choice but can have consequences for others in the long term.
	a.	Should the community be accountable for wellness activities or should they be the responsibility of individuals?
	b.	Should the community pay for the consequences of poor wellness choices?

Professional/Special Interest Group: Education, Community-based Programs, and Health Communication (George Mason, health dept, hospitals, managed care organizations, schools, NOVA, medical society)

1. As the health care industry changes, and welfare systems are restructured, new ways of providing services are emerging. Community not-for-profit charitable organizations are providing health promotion and prevention services that previously were delivered only by hospitals, health departments, and doctors' offices.
   a. To what extent is there duplication in the services being offered by different organizations?
   b. How appropriate is this duplication?
   c. To what extent should these services be integrated with the services being provided by other agencies in the community?
   d. Who, if anyone, should ensure that these agencies work together?
   e. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver these health promotion and prevention services?

2. In some areas the health care industry has begun delivering services, such as contact tracing for infectious disease, that until recently were only provided by health departments.
   a. To what extent is there duplication in the services being offered by different agencies?
   b. How appropriate is this duplication
   c. To what extent should these services be integrated with the services being provided by other agencies in the community?
   d. Who, if anyone, should ensure that these agencies work together?
   e. What should be considered by private organizations and government agencies when deciding whether to deliver health protection services?

3. Healthy People 2010 has adopted two broad goals for the nation's health: increase the quality and years of healthy life and eliminate health disparities. These goals recognize that individual members of a community may be at risk because of their own particular situations (poverty) and that members groups within the community may be at risk because of their membership in that group (race, gender).
   a. Under what circumstances should people be eligible for special programs?
   b. How do we determine who should be eligible?
   c. How do we identify classifications for people in order to determine population needs?
   d. How should we identify special populations groups within our community?
   e. To what extent should the community support special needs?
   f. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for providing these supports?
   As the community changes, the special needs of individuals and groups will also change.
   g. How should we monitor these changes and needs?
   h. How will we know when we have succeeded in reaching and assisting those with special needs (i.e., when we have eliminated disparities)?

4. Basic health care can be provided in a variety of ways. It can be done in a way that gives everyone the same services, by ability to pay, or a combination of the two. How should health care be organized and provided in our community?
   a. Health care can also be paid for in a variety of ways such as by the government, through insurers, or by the patient. Which method do you think would best serve our community?
   b. Which of the activities involved in distributing and paying for health care should be regulated? By whom?
   Some expensive services or scarce services (heart surgery, organ transplants) are not available to everyone who might need them.
   c. How do you think these scarce resources should be divided up?
   The current health care system does not provide care for all. Many are uninsured, underinsured, poor or otherwise unable to buy health care. Communities have often found ways to partially fill the gap. In our community we have Free Clinics to help those not eligible for Medicaid.
   d. How should these needs be paid for?
   e. Who should be responsible for making sure that services are available?

5. In our community, a greater number of the uninsured poor population has the ability to receive health insurance for their children.
   a. Should uninsured families, unable to pay for medical services, be required to apply for public insurance programs before being accepted for "free" care in the health department, free clinic, or emergency rooms?
   b. How can we make sure that those children who qualify for this program are enrolled?
   c. How can the information be disseminated such that those who qualify become enrolled, but also understand how to utilize this program for their children?

6. Prince William Partnerships for Health defines health-related services very broadly in our community. This definition includes programs such as Neighborhood Watch and community policing.
   a. What are the responsibilities of health care providers in these types of health-related programs?
   b. What is the responsibility of a provider for the health of the community above and beyond the patients that go to the doctor?

7. People in need of medical and preventive care face many obstacles such as access to care, getting prescriptions, housing, lack of income, insurance problems, not knowing where to get help, etc. These problems limit their ability to live life to the fullest.
   a. To what degree should a community attempt to intervene in quality of life issues?
   b. Who should be responsible for intervening?
   c. How should we intervene?
   d. Which of these problems should be the top priority?

8.   In order for policies to be developed for preventive services, primary care, emergency services, and long-term care, data must be gathered to describe the needs of our community.
   a. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for collecting the data and making it available for policy makers?
   b. Agencies in both the public and private sectors must cooperate with one another to develop the appropriate response to a problem once it is identified.
   c. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for ensuring that agencies cooperate with one another?
   d. Who, if anyone, should be responsible for monitoring progress after a need has been found?

9.   Providing information to underserved populations (low-income, non-English speaking, minority groups) is difficult.
   a. What mechanisms should be used to reach out to these groups?
   b. How can the culture and beliefs of certain groups be taken into account in the preparation of information?
   c. How can representatives of cultural groups be involved in shaping and preparing health education efforts?